

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE DUNES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and tremendous pride that I recognize the 50th anniversary of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is dedicated to preserving the lands along the southern shore of Lake Michigan that are protected within the park's boundary. Since its inception in 1966, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore has acquired and maintained over 15,000 acres of land and, in doing so, it provides a home for endangered plants and animals to thrive as well as a rich natural resource for residents of, and visitors to, Northwest Indiana to enjoy. On November 5, 2015, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore launched its 50th anniversary celebration, which will run through the end of 2016.

The Indiana Dunes long served as a destination for those weary of city life to escape and reconnect to nature at the turn of the twentieth century. Chicagoans in particular found respite among the shoreline, seeking peace among the valleys of the tranquil sand dunes. In 1896, University of Chicago botanist Henry Chandler Cowles traveled to Indiana and discovered the Indiana Dunes for the first time, where he found conditions to be an ideal location to study the relationship between plants and their environment. His observations documented the unique ecology of this region, laying the foundation upon which future organizations would base their arguments for protecting this resource from industrial development by designating it as a national park.

Following the appointment of Stephen Mather as the first director of the National Park Service, hearings were held in Chicago in 1916 to weigh public opinion on the creation of "Sand Dunes National Park." Over 400 people were in attendance at this meeting and forty-two people spoke in favor of the proposal. There were no opponents to the proposal, but the United States' entry into World War I changed national priorities, and plans for the park were shelved. The Great Depression followed the war, and many worried a national park that would allow for the preservation of the dunes would never come to fruition.

Post World War II America saw much growth in industrial development, and Indiana moved to capitalize on this trend by seeking a deepwater port on Lake Michigan. Port construction would require the demolition of Central Dunes. In 1952, the Save the Dunes Council, now known as Save the Dunes, was created when a group of concerned citizens came together and took on the extraordinary task of establishing the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to protest the destruction of the dunes and protect the remaining dune complex along the shoreline. With support

from then-Senator Paul Douglas, and through the tireless efforts of many, including the Council's founder, Dorothy Buell, and activists Herb and Charlotte Read, Ruth and Ed Osann, and Sylvia Troy, as well as countless others who championed the cause, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore was established in 1966 when the 89th Congress passed a bill authorizing the preservation of eight miles of shore and 8,330 acres of parkland along the lake.

Throughout the last three decades, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Save the Dunes have worked tirelessly to secure the lands within the park boundary, increasing its holding to 15,000 acres. Today, people can enjoy a variety of landscapes inside the park such as dunes, wetlands, prairies, rivers, and forests. In the coming year, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore will sponsor several events to celebrate its history, including a year-long lecture series, a science conference, and a youth poetry and art contest in honor of those citizens involved in the creation of the park.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commemorating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Throughout the years, the staff and volunteers of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Save the Dunes, and other organizations have dedicated themselves to preserving the natural landscape of the Lake Michigan shoreline, and their passionate commitment to the park is worthy of the highest praise.

SIMPSON HOUSE SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, on November 13, 2015, administrators of the Simpson House, the oldest existing retirement community in the world that is historically related to the United Methodist Church will celebrate its Sesquicentennial Anniversary; a significant milestone for the Simpson House and the City of Philadelphia.

Founded in 1865, in Philadelphia, wounded Civil War soldiers needed care. Memorialized in the Ladies' United Aid Society meeting minutes is the sentiment that compassionate Methodist women found themselves, called to work in spheres of which they had never dreamed or had the remotest idea. At the end of the Civil War, in 1865, Jane Henry, Simpson House Foundress knew experienced empowered volunteers could capably address other issues of their era. When she felt a call to ensure that aged individuals who had no money, no family and no means of supporting themselves had a safe and secure place to live, she did not sit idly by. Rather, she took decisive actions which would lead to a meet-

ing on June 14th 1865, and the founding of the Methodist Episcopal Home for the Aged, today known as Simpson House.

Dedicated volunteers and staff have led and guided the Simpson House since the beginning. They include its Founder, Jane Henry, Mrs. Ellen Holmes Verner Simpson and her husband Bishop Matthew Simpson who served as the second president and member of the Advisory Committee; Arthur & Anne Flanagan, unpretentious and generous donors; Margaret McKay Gerhart, volunteer and executive director; and The Rev. David W. Powell, Executive Director. Richard Coyle, RN, NHA, Simpson House Executive Director and Kim W. Williams, Simpson House Senior Services President and CEO are their successors and guardians of the mission.

Generous and ongoing support from many donors helps make commitment to high quality and dignified housing and health care services to the women and men of the Greater Philadelphia Region possible. The Simpson House continues its commitment to benevolent and charity care, a promise since its founding.

Today the Simpson House offers independent living apartments; personal care apartments; memory support and skilled nursing care, serving an average of three hundred senior adults per year. A committed and dedicated staff of more than three hundred employees provides these service and care.

The Simpson House Sesquicentennial Anniversary celebrates the fifteen decades of service. They are honored to serve residents who wish to share their lives and common interests in a caring and active setting. I urge this body to join with me in celebrating the Simpson House and the quality affordable care and accommodations it provides for Philadelphia's older adults.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARK FOLEY

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Eastham Fire Chief Mark Foley on the occasion of his retirement.

Chief Foley dedicated his professional life to public service as a firefighter and emergency services expert. Respected by all for his commitment, leadership, and professionalism, he will retire after serving his community for 28 years.

Beginning his career in the Yarmouth Fire Department, Chief Foley has proven himself a remarkable first responder, rising through the ranks to Lieutenant over the 18 years he spent in the department. He also served as the Deputy Director of the Barnstable County Fire Rescue Training Academy. Adding to his growing list of qualifications, Chief Foley took a position as the Deputy Chief of the Eastham Fire Department before ascending to the position of Chief in 2013.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Firefighters are a pillar of strength, bravery, and poise in our society. They routinely risk their lives to protect our neighborhoods, safeguard our families, and provide urgent aid to those who need it most. Over the course of his impressive career, Chief Foley has demonstrated an unwavering devotion to these ideals and our communities are safer as a result.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Eastham Fire Chief Mark Foley for over 28 years of distinguished public service. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring all that Chief Foley has done for our community and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

FUSION CENTER ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2015

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following exchange of letters between the Committee on Homeland Security and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, regarding H.R. 3598, for the record.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, November 2, 2015.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: I write concerning H.R. 3598, the "Fusion Center Enhancement Act of 2015." This legislation includes matters that I believe fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

In order to expedite floor consideration of H.R. 3598, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure agreed to forgo action on this bill despite the fact that the Parliamentarians were unable to fully litigate the jurisdictional question. However, this was conditional on our mutual understanding that forgoing consideration of the bill would not prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the Committee's Rule X jurisdiction.

I request that you please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest into the Congressional Record.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, November 3, 2015.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SHUSTER: Thank you for your interest in H.R. 3598, the "Fusion Center Enhancement Act of 2015." I appreciate your cooperation in refraining from requesting a sequential referral on this bill in the interest of allowing it to move expeditiously under suspension of the House Rules on November 2, 2015. Because H.R. 3598 has now passed the House, the Parliamentarians can no longer render an official decision as to

any jurisdictional claim the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee may have had.

I therefore acknowledge that the question of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's jurisdictional interest in a certain provision of H.R. 3598 has not been fully adjudicated and that no final decision as to that point was made. I further agree that the absence of a final decision will not prejudice any claim the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee may have with respect to this legislation in the future.

A copy of this letter will be entered into the Congressional Record.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

HIRE MORE HEROES ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 22) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act:

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chair, I submit the following exchange of letters between myself and Chairman LAMAR SMITH.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, October 30, 2015.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 3763, the Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2015. I appreciate your willingness to support expediting the consideration of this legislation on the House floor.

I acknowledge that by waiving consideration of this bill, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology does not waive any future jurisdictional claim to provisions in this or similar legislation. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving provisions within this legislation on which the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology has a valid jurisdictional claim.

I will include our letters on H.R. 3763 in the Congressional Record during House floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation, and I look forward to working with the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY,
Washington, DC, October 30, 2015.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write to confirm our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 3763,

the "Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2015," which your Committee ordered reported on October 23, 2015. H.R. 3763 contains provisions within the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology's Rule X jurisdiction. However, in order to expedite floor consideration of this important legislation, the committee waives consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology takes this action only with the understanding that the Committee's jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered, and with the understanding that an amendment which includes provisions of H.R. 3585, the Surface Transportation Research and Development Act of 2015, will be supported by you when it is submitted to the Rules Committee and offered on the Floor.

The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment to any House-Senate conference on this legislation, with the understanding that you will support such a request.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

IN RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS FOR CITIZENS, INC.

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Citizens for Citizens, Inc. on its 50th anniversary.

Citizens for Citizens, a Community Action Agency, assists over 42,000 households in the Greater Fall River and Greater Taunton areas in Massachusetts every year by providing short term services that support families during financial crisis through its Fuel Assistance, Food Pantry and Rental Assistance programs.

Founded in 1965 under the leadership of its first Executive Director, Edward J. (Jud) Sullivan, Citizens for Citizens opened a Head Start program to provide pre-school education programs for children ages 3 to 5. Recognizing the needs of its community, the programs were quickly expanded to include employment opportunities for individuals over the age of 55 through the Senior Aide Program, nutritional services through the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) feeding program, and utility mitigation opportunities through the Fuel Assistance and Weatherization program. By 1982, Citizens for Citizens had also started an After School and Family Day Care program and Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

Today, Citizens for Citizens is an ever-present and integral part of our community's fabric. Hardly a demographic is overlooked by its wide variety of new and continuing programs. In addition to its initial focus on education and employment opportunities, Citizens for Citizens also provides elderly individuals with an opportunity to earn additional income by working with children with special needs through the Foster Grandparent program, and

utilizes the many skills of willing and able neighbors through voluntary assistance programs, such as the Volunteer Income Tax Return Preparation program.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Citizens for Citizens on behalf of all of the families and individuals that the organization has helped over the last fifty years. Citizens for Citizens has had a tremendous impact on the Fall River and Taunton communities, and the Commonwealth as a whole. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating all of its staff and volunteers and in wishing them another fifty years of success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 602. I was meeting, for the first time, my Chief of Staff's baby son and missed the vote on Mr. KING's amendment. Had I been present, I would have voted Yes.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 12TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF PASTOR AND FIRST LADY HENDRICKS

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 12th pastoral anniversary of Pastor and First Lady Hendricks. Pastor and First Lady Hendricks have continually served their community with passion and integrity.

Originally from Chicago, Illinois, Pastor Hendricks moved to Ypsilanti, Michigan in 1969. For 35 years, he worked at General Motors, ultimately retiring as a journeyman pipefitter. Not long after moving to Ypsilanti, he joined St. John Missionary Baptist Church. It was not until 1996 that he heeded God's call into the ministry.

In 2003, Pastor Hendricks was installed to lead St. John Missionary Baptist Church. Under the vision and leadership of Pastor and First Lady Hendricks, the church has experienced continued growth and innovation. The church building has been remodeled, and the empowerment of youth has manifested itself through the formation of Youth Church and Youth Choir.

The strength of Pastor Hendricks' vision has included the expansion of his role through service in other leadership positions. In addition to his current ministry, he was called to serve as president of the Minister's Alliance, president of the General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Michigan, and First Vice Moderator of the Eastern Progressive Baptist District Association of Detroit and Vicinity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor the 12th anniversary of Pastor and First Lady Hendricks. This partnership has faithfully spread the Word and selflessly served their community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, regarding the question considered November 4 on agreeing to amendment number 54 printed in Part A of House Report 113-326 offered by Mr. DESAULNIER of California to H.R. 22 (Roll Call Number 599), I am recorded as voting "no." I intended to vote "yes."

IN RECOGNITION OF DOCTOR ROCCO ARMONDA

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Rocco Armonda, who has been awarded the Hero of Military Medicine Award by the Cape Cod Veterans, Inc. and the Korean War Veterans Association for saving over one thousand American lives.

Dr. Armonda's military career began at the prestigious United States Military Academy. He then went on to earn his degree as a Doctor of Medicine from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland, and complete his Neurosurgery Residency at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington. Adding to his growing list of qualifications, he took a fellowship with the Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, specializing in Cerebrovascular Surgery and Interventional Neuroradiology. Dr. Armonda then deployed to Iraq from March 2003 to February 2004 as Commander of the 207th Neurosurgery Team.

Dr. Armonda has saved the lives of over one thousand U.S. servicemen, including a life particularly close to home: Corporal Vincent Mannion-Brodeur of Hyannis, Massachusetts. While serving with the 82nd Airborne Division in Tikrit, Iraq in 2007, Corporal Mannion-Brodeur was critically injured by an enemy explosion. Due to Dr. Armonda's expertise, bravery, and poise, Corporal Mannion-Brodeur is still with us today. His road to recovery has been long, but Corporal Mannion-Brodeur has used this opportunity to dedicate his time to working with other injured veterans.

This is not the first time Dr. Armonda has been honored for his work—among others, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and the International Brain Mapping and Intraoperative Surgical Planning Society have awarded Dr. Armonda with their own recognitions. Currently, Dr. Armonda is affiliated with numerous hospitals, including Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the MedStar Washington Hospital Center. He also serves as an Associate Professor of Neurosurgery at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and, incredibly, has found time between saving lives to travel to Boston multiple times to run the Boston Marathon in honor of Corporal Vincent Mannion-Brodeur.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Dr. Rocco Armonda for his many years of service and outstanding dedication to military medicine. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratu-

lating him and in extending our humble gratitude for all that he has done for Corporal Mannion-Brodeur and for our country's military service members.

END PREDATORY LENDING TO VETERANS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, in commemoration of this year's Veterans Day, I want to take this opportunity to highlight the progress we have made in the past year protecting service-members, veterans and their families from harmful financial products and practices.

Earlier this year, the Department of Defense finalized new rules to protect service-members and their families from triple-digit interest rate payday and car title loans that threatened their security clearance and careers. Unfortunately these protections are only available to active duty members, leaving our nation's veterans susceptible to predatory financial practices. Let us honor our veterans by declaring them off-limits to predatory lending and protecting them from the worst abuses in the payday lending industry.

To protect veterans, their families, and all consumers, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) must adopt the strongest possible rule to rein in the worst abuses in the payday loan market. Specifically, I ask that the CFPB meaningfully reform the marketplace by implementing rules governing both storefront and online payday lending that would require the lender to determine the borrower's ability to repay the loan, including consideration of both income and expenses.

CFPB should not sanction any series of repeat loans or provide any safe harbor, and recognize that borrowers need small dollar loans with good terms, not short-term loans that are difficult for them to repay. These short-term loans are renewed a multitude of times and trap the average borrower in debt for more than half the year at rates that average 391 percent.

The CFPB should establish an outer limit on length of indebtedness that is at least as short as the FDIC's 2005 guidelines—90 days in a twelve-month period, and lastly prohibit lenders from using post-dated checks of electronic access to a borrower's checking account as evidence of ability to repay the loan.

Too many veterans are living in poverty and desperation—some are even driven to homelessness—due to these consumer protection loopholes that predatory lenders take advantage of, and we must do better. One homeless veteran is too many. This Veterans Day, let's end this predatory lending epidemic.

HIRE MORE HEROES ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 22) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act:

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 22, the DRIVE Act. I believe many areas of this legislation still need improvement, and I am hopeful this will occur in conference. I will support the legislation in order to move the process forward and help provide greater certainty for the delivery of current and pending transportation projects across the country.

The legislation only provides \$325 billion over the course of six years. The funding level proposed in this legislation will not be sufficient if we truly want to improve our infrastructure and keep our country competitive in the years to come. In addition, this six-year legislation is only paid for through the first three years. Congress needs to pay for all six years to ensure that the federal government can engage in new transportation projects with the states during the final three years of the legislation. As the legislation goes to conference, I will keep fighting to increase its funding.

While I am concerned about several elements in the legislation, I am glad that it includes the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank, which passed the House with bipartisan support last week. The Export-Import Bank supports millions of dollars in exports by businesses in my district, and helps them to better compete in the global market. The reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank will strengthen American businesses and create American jobs.

I look forward to continuing to work with my House colleagues to resolve the issues of concern in the Surface Transportation Reauthorization. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation and help to move the process forward, for the sake of our economy and our national infrastructure.

IN RECOGNITION OF SERGEANT
MAJOR (RET.) DANIEL BULLIS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Daniel Bullis, a Vietnam veteran who is not only being honored by the Korean War Veterans Association but also Cape Cod Veterans, Inc. for his outstanding military service and dedication to military medicine.

Sergeant Major Bullis is a respected veteran of the war in Vietnam and served for 31 years on active duty in the United States Army Medical Department. During his illustrious career, he assumed numerous leadership responsibilities—the culmination of which led to his selection as the first Sergeant Major, Army Medical Department/Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Surgeon General of the U.S. Army. He was also appointed as the first Regimental Sergeant Major of the Army Medical Department Regiment, a position in which he provided leadership and guidance concerning the health, welfare, and training of 90,000 enlisted medical personnel.

After Sergeant Major Bullis retired from the Army, he joined the Department of Defense Deployment Health Clinical Center as the Chief of Staff and also serves as Vice President for Patient and Family Services with the Walter Reed Society—a non-profit charitable organization that helps wounded veterans with the unanticipated and often burdensome financial needs. The Society provides these veterans with specially identified equipment and services related to their care when other resources are not available. Originally chartered in 1996 for the benefit of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, the Society now serves its successor organization, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, in Bethesda, Maryland. Sergeant Major Bullis serves proudly and voluntarily on the Board of the Society. His efforts on behalf of the Walter Reed Society have helped hundreds of service members and their families receive the assistance they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Sergeant Major Bullis for his many years of service and outstanding dedication to the care of our nation's service members. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating him and in extending our gratitude for all that he has done.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENSURING
CONTINUED OPERATIONS AND
NO OTHER MAJOR INCIDENTS,
CLOSURES, OR SLOWDOWNS (ECONOMICS)
ACT OF 2015

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce my legislation, the Ensuring Continued Operations and No Other Major Incidents, Closures, or Slowdowns (ECONOMICS) Act of 2015. From late 2014 through February 2015, a dispute between the Pacific Maritime Association and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union drastically slowed import and export traffic at our 29 West Coast ports, paralyzing supply chains and the economy west of the Mississippi River. This dispute had severe and devastating economic impacts on Washington's 4th Congressional District, the Pacific Northwest, and the country—as agricultural producers, retailers, manufacturers, and countless other businesses and consumers were unable to get their goods through the ports and to foreign as well as domestic markets.

This legislation would create new economic safeguards and triggers that mandate a legal mediation process in an employer-labor dispute at our nation's ports, in order to prevent future disputes and slowdowns. The measure would require the Administration to investigate a dispute and prevent unnecessary economic harm by mandating that a Board of Inquiry be convened within 10 days of any of the safeguards being triggered and then report its recommendations to the President and the public on whether there should be a judicial injunction.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that Congress provide additional tools to keep supply chains operating and the economy running during times of severe economic hardship and this

legislation does just that. This commonsense and straightforward bill takes an important first step in mitigating the negative impacts of future labor disputes at our nation's ports, which will help protect the economy, as well as families, businesses, and agricultural producers, many of whom are still recovering from the most recent slowdown at our West Coast ports.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MILITARY
SERVICE OF MR. LEONARD
PITEK

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Lenny Pitek for his service to the nation. The sacrifices he made while stationed in Germany from 1957–1960 and in the Army Reserve from 1960–1963 helped keep America safe, and the Dearborn community is better off because of his hard work over the years.

Mr. Pitek's commitment to serve the Dearborn community for more than three decades is truly extraordinary. He is an active member of the American Legion Fort Dearborn Post 364, Polish Legion of American Veterans Chapter 75, and the Dearborn Allied War Veterans Council (DAWVC). He also served as a chaplain for the DAWVC and American Legion Post 364. Lenny is also an original member of the Ritual Team, which provides military honors at ceremonies and funerals to ensure that every veteran is laid to rest with the honor and dignity they deserve. As a result of his direct actions, military families find peace, veterans are comforted, and our military members are buried with honor. Based on this service, Mr. Pitek was selected by his military peers to receive the DAWVC 2015 Dearborn Veteran of the Year Award.

Lenny Pitek is a longtime resident of Dearborn and lives there with his wife of 45 years, Dianne. Together, they raised three children; Anthony, Jennifer, and Monica, and they have three grandchildren. Mr. Pitek served as the past President of St. Martha's Dad's Club, where he helped organize Christmas parties, Easter egg hunts and raised money for families in need. He also volunteers at the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center distributing Christmas gifts during the holiday season. Mr. Pitek is a true hero to veterans and to all families he reaches with his unwavering dedication to service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Mr. Leonard Pitek for his military service and inspiring dedication to veterans and the City of Dearborn.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, November 4, 2015, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On roll call no. 601, YEA.

IN RECOGNITION OF SERGEANT
(RETIRED) RONALD J. TEIXEIRA

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ronald J. Teixeira for receiving the Silver Star for his gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States on March 22nd 1969.

Mr. Teixeira was destined for a life of bravery. Born soon after the end of World War II on Veterans Day, he first joined the U.S. Army at Fort Dix, New Jersey to complete his basic training before being transferred to Ft. Gordon and Ft. Benning in Georgia to finish his training as a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) in the airborne infantry. In December of 1968, he received orders and shipped out with the 101st Airborne for Vietnam. Due to a shortage of NCOs in the 4th Infantry Division, Sergeant Teixeira was placed with Company B, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry of the 4th Infantry Division as part of security details for bridges, artillery units, medic visits to friendly villages and resupply convoys.

It was while protecting a resupply convoy on March 22, 1969, that enemy forces attacked. Sergeant Teixeira's armored personnel carrier was destroyed and he was wounded along with several of his crewmen. Rather than seeking safety and medical attention immediately, Sergeant Teixeira returned enemy fire and engaged their positions until his ammunition had been expended. After receiving basic medical attention, he assisted in the treatment of other wounded soldiers and set up defensive positions until a medical evacuation (medivac) helicopter came to the aid of the ambushed unit.

Sergeant Teixeira's fight to survive and protect his fellow soldiers that day was not over, however. While lifting off from the landing zone, his medivac helicopter was shot down by an enemy rocket. Pulling out the other wounded and injured from the wreckage, Sergeant Teixeira valiantly continued to risk his safety and life in order to keep his fellow soldiers alive until they were evacuated out of Vietnam and to Japan to receive medical attention.

With a slip of fate, Sergeant Teixeira never received the Silver Star during his service in the United States Army. Instead of returning home to file the necessary paperwork to receive this award, Sergeant Teixeira shipped out to Korea after recuperating in Japan to continue protecting American lives. His bravery, service, and dedication is unmatched.

And so, on this Veterans Day and, coincidentally, his 70th birthday, it is my sincere honor to be able to present one of our nation's highest military commemorations to Sergeant Teixeira for his outstanding military service and for the great credit he has brought upon himself, the Army and the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring this distinguished soldier for his determination and exemplary devotion to his duty. I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in wishing Mr. Teixeira a happy 70th birthday and thanking

him for the sacrifices he made in service to his country.

HONORING BETTY GRAY

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Betty Gray, a loyal public servant and a key staff member on the House Armed Services Committee. Betty has served in Congress for 40 years—a benchmark only the most dedicated public servants achieve.

Betty typifies what it means to be a public servant, a colleague, a friend and, most importantly, a mother and wife. Anyone who has had the opportunity to meet Betty quickly understands that the most important thing to her is her family. Her husband, Dick, and two children, Zach and Cal, are at the center of her life.

We all fear the day Betty decides to retire. While no one is irreplaceable, some people come very close. Betty is one of those people. Her institutional knowledge and administrative skill set are unrivaled. After 40 years of service, Betty has accumulated a wealth of knowledge and depth of understanding about the Armed Services Committee and Congress that cannot be replaced. When she retires, a part of Congress will retire with her.

Betty is a true professional. Ask anyone who has worked with her about the quality of her service and the response is unequivocal: Betty has always been the quiet, consistent presence on the committee—the person who is never rattled, regardless of how chaotic or stressful things become. She is always here to remind us of what has been tried before and whether it did or did not work.

An eagle-eye editor of letters and memoranda, Betty is literally the person who makes sure that we “cross our T's and dot our I's.” Not only is she the person with the clipboard checking off staff at Member meetings, she is the person who assures that the Members know the who, what, where, when, why, and how of the meeting. Throw five conflicting times and dates at her, and Betty can make calm out of schedule chaos. As security administrator for classified information, Betty literally handles our deepest, darkest secrets. For 37 years, she has shepherded every National Defense Authorization Act through committee markup, ensured every roll-call vote is tallied correctly, and served as the committee's unofficial historian.

On a more personal level, Betty is the librarian of the House Armed Services Committee, the school counselor, the motherly presence who remembers everyone's birthdays and, on occasions, even the school nurse. She is the go-to person to get things done and the one who lends a helping hand or a listening ear.

Betty has outlasted eight Speakers of the House, seven Presidents, and ten House Armed Services Chairmen. Speaking as someone who has been here for a while, I understand the difficulty of achieving that level of longevity. We are here today to celebrate all that Betty has done for her country and for Congress, and to thank her for her service. You are a true public servant, Betty. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Betty Gray for her distinguished career. I am confident that others will continue to benefit from her service.

HONORING THE CAREER OF BEN FLANAGAN

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the long, successful career of Ben Flanagan, who served the Grapevine Police Department for 25 distinguishable years.

Ben served the Grapevine Police Department in several capacities from 1989 to 2014, ultimately retiring as Assistant Chief of Police. Born and raised in Grapevine, Texas, Ben graduated from Grapevine High School in 1970. Upon graduation, he joined the US Army for two years before attending Tarrant County Community College where he studied political science. Ben would then serve the Lewisville Police Department for one year before beginning his exceptional career with the Grapevine Police Department.

The career Ben made for himself is full of honors, success, and hard work as he held seven different positions within the department, quickly moving up the ranks. In 1989, Ben began as a patrol officer and eventually retired as Assistant Chief of Police, acquiring an impressive resume along the way. Ben was honored as officer of the year in 1991 and detective of the year in 1994. He also participated in hostage negotiations and was a member of the SWAT team. Ben played a pivotal role in shaping the police department into the institution it is today, as well as helping keep the city safe for its residents, businesses, and visitors.

Ben's North Texas roots are deep, as he grew up fishing the shores of Lake Grapevine and his father had farmed the land that is now part of Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport. To this day he enjoys the outdoors and many of its activities including fishing and hunting. Ben accumulated 46 commendations during his career, including an outstanding service award in 2004 from Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Ben's dedication and positive attitude is known throughout the community and travelled with him during his tenure. It is an honor and a privilege to recognize one of the great citizens of the 24th district.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the career of Ben Flanagan. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating this milestone in his remarkable life.

HIRE MORE HEROES ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 22) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under

TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act:

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Chair, I support the Neugebauer amendment because it will force the Conference Committee to deal with the use of enterprise guarantee fees in the Highway Bill. I do not necessarily oppose the reduction of dividends paid by the Federal Reserve to the largest banks.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIAM
WHIPP

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished veteran from my district in Massachusetts: William David Whipp. This Veterans Day, Mr. Whipp will be recognized by the Dartmouth Veteran's Advisory Council for his outstanding service during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II.

Born in 1926, Mr. Whipp joined the Army soon after his eighteenth birthday on April 11, 1944. Following his basic military training as an infantry scout, Mr. Whipp was assigned to the 11th Infantry Regiment of the 76th Infantry Division and deployed as a Private First Class to Western Europe as part of the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations in World War II.

It was during Mr. Whipp's deployment to Ardennes that the Germans launched one of the most brutal offensive campaigns against Allied forces in this densely forested region. Known as the Battle of the Bulge, this bloody ground offensive claimed over 19,000 American lives—more than any other single battle in World War II. Surviving this fierce surprise attack and the ensuing counteroffensive by Allied forces, Mr. Whipp went on to serve through the end of World War II until, having received, among other medals and awards, the illustrious Bronze Star for his actions during battle, Mr. Whipp received an honorable discharge in January of 1946.

Upon the conclusion of the war and his return home, Mr. Whipp has been viewed by the citizens of Dartmouth and the Commonwealth as a leader, a trusted civil servant, and a friend to the community. His guidance on several Town Boards over the last twenty years has contributed significantly in improving the lives of everyone in Southeastern Massachusetts and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. Whipp for his years of service to a grateful nation. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating him for receiving this recognition and in humbly thanking him for all that he has done for his country.

CELEBRATING THE STATE CHAMPION
MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL
BOYS' SOCCER TEAM

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Marian High School

Knights for their victory in the IHSAA Class 1A Boys Soccer State Championship. Hard work and dedication led the Knights to this victory and allowed them to finish out the season with twenty wins, eight of which were shutouts, and two losses. The championship game was the team's first appearance in the state finals and is their first state title.

During the championship game, Marian senior Augie Hartnagel started off with high intensity, scoring a goal within the first 20 minutes. The team took this momentum and scored two more goals, made by Kevin Torres and Jordan Morris. The team finished with 24 shots to Cardinal Ritter High School's four and a 3-0 victory.

I also would like to highlight the many players who were honored for their performance in the tournament. Seniors Richie Ontiveros and lead scorer Augie Hartnagel were named to the Northern Indiana Conference's First Team, Kevin Torres and Cristian Juarez were named to the NIC's Second Team, and Christian Verstraete received Honorable Mention. Keeper Michael Cataldo also walked away with eight shutouts for the season.

I want to congratulate Coach Ben Householter on this victory, which is truly a testament to his dedication to the boys' soccer program. This win gave Householter his first state championship in 18 years as head coach and earned him recognition throughout the entire conference as Northern Indiana Conference Coach of the Year.

The Knights' level of excellence as a whole is a reflection of the individual players and their desire for success and dedication to hard work. This victory is a result not only from talent, but also from hours of practice, strategic planning, and fine tuning the skills of each player. I look forward not only to cheering for the Knights in the future, but to cheering on the men of this year's team as they pursue their goals in the years to come. I have every confidence that they will succeed.

Congratulations to the entire team for their contributions: Kevin Torres-Villa, Christian Verstraete, Richie Ontiveros, Augie Hartnagel, Carlos Torres, Nate Pullin, Lorenzo Martinez, Michael Wuszke, Michael Cataldo, Max Frausto, Justin Saavedra, Alex Kokot, Cristian Juarez, Oscar Tavarez, Johnathan Tavarez, Roberto Ontiveros, Jordan Morris, Alex Rodela, Will Tiller, De'Quarius Strowder, Dennis Mammolenti, Gabriel Martinez, Juan Botello, Adam Evans, Alfredo Medina, Jonathan Magallon, Head Coach Ben Householter, Assistant Alfredo Juarez, Assistant Coach John Jonas, Assistant Coach Matt Englert, Manager Chloe Householter, Manager Jenna Householter, Athletic Trainer Anne Micinski, Assistant Athletic Director Linda Martin, Athletic Director Reggie Glon, and Principal Mark Kirzeder.

The Knights' dedication and sacrifices have truly paid off, and is a source of pride for the entire city and Indiana. This is truly an exciting victory and this is a memory these students will have for a lifetime. On behalf of the people of the Second Congressional District of Indiana, I applaud Coach Householter for building this program, thank the student athletes for their determination, and congratulate them all on an amazing season. It is my honor to represent Marian High School, and I wish continued success to the team and each of its members in their future endeavors.

DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY:
EVALUATING THE TRAFFICKING
IN PERSONS REPORT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I convened an oversight hearing on the 2015 Trafficking in Persons Report. Far more than simply ink on paper, this report has proven to be both prize and prod: a prize for those countries whose progress in the fight against the grave abuse of human trafficking the report acknowledges, a prod to those nations that are failing the trafficking victims within their borders.

The power of the report lies in its credibility. And the credibility of the report lies in its accuracy. We must get the report right, or we will lose the most effective tool we have to help the more than 20 million victims of trafficking enslaved around the world today.

Some countries openly credit the TIP Report for their increased and effective anti-trafficking response. Over the last 14 years, more than 100 countries have enacted anti-trafficking laws, and many countries have taken other steps required to significantly raise their tier rankings: Tier 1 for those who fully meet minimum standards, Tier 2 for those who are making significant efforts to meet minimum standards, and Tier 3 for those who are not making significant efforts to meet minimum standards and, indeed, may be subject to sanctions.

And for those in a purgatory between Tier 2 and 3, Congress in 2003 created a "Tier 2 Watch List" for those which may have undertaken significant anti-trafficking steps late in the evaluation year. Unfortunately, this ranking has been misused to allow countries to escape accountability.

I held the hearing yesterday due to well-founded concern that some of the rankings in the most recent report are grossly inaccurate and greatly undermine the credibility of the report.

Indeed, we have massive grade inflation for certain favored countries, thereby defeating accountability, and demoralizing countries that actually made significant progress last year.

The State Department heard from many House members—161 to be exact—when it was leaked that Malaysia was upgraded this year from Tier 3 to the Tier 2 Watch List.

The report justified the upgrade because Malaysia introduced—but did not pass—an amendment to their trafficking law, and allowed a limited number of their trafficking victims to work outside of detention, while keeping the rest of the victims in detention.

These incomplete actions pale in comparison to the size of Malaysia's trafficking problems. Malaysia was the subject of a Reuters investigative report in 2014, which found that human traffickers were keeping hundreds of Rohingya refugees from Burma captive in houses in northern Malaysia, beating them, depriving them of food, and demanding a ransom from their families.

At least two million vulnerable migrants work in the informal economy in Malaysia. NGOs on the ground tell us that traffickers operate openly and with impunity. And that those who get in their way are killed.

Only three traffickers were convicted in Malaysia last year. Three in a country of more than 30 million people.

If that ratio were not bad enough, it also marks the third year of decline in convictions. Three convictions is one-third of the convictions Malaysia had in 2013—when Malaysia was Tier 3—and one-seventh of the convictions in 2012.

Trafficking in Malaysia is getting worse and the Government's enforcement of the law was nearly non-existent, and yet Malaysia was upgraded.

So what happened?

What happened is that this Administration wanted Malaysia to be eligible to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership. This spring, Congress approved the Trade Priorities Act of 2015, excluding Tier 3 countries from expedited consideration by Congress, for the simple reason that Congress did not want to increase trade with countries that engage in persistent labor trafficking.

Malaysia was disqualified—until their upgrade.

More than “bad optics,” more than flouting the will of Congress, such circumventing of accountability is disastrous for the labor trafficking victims in Malaysia.

Instead of demanding change before Malaysia became a major trading partner, the Administration changed our standards to give Malaysia a pass. In other words, we looked the other way to empower a slave economy.

The Administration also upgraded Cuba this year to the Tier 2 Watch List on flimsy justifications—namely, that Cuba began sharing information with the U.S. on trafficking and that it convicted 13 traffickers two years ago (which is outside the reporting period).

But what has changed in Cuba for trafficking victims in the last year?

Cuba legally permits the pimping of 16 year old girls, is the top destination in the Western Hemisphere for child sex tourism, and does not criminalize labor trafficking at all—indeed, Cuban health care personnel who are sent abroad by the Castro regime to generate income for the government report being forced to work in medical missions, having their passports withheld and their families threatened.

The trafficking rankings should not be used in hopes of bringing about better bilateral relations with Cuba; rather, better relations with Cuba should be pre-conditioned on real protection for Cuba's prostituted children and recognition of labor trafficking.

The bar also seemed to be lowered this year for Uzbekistan, which was upgraded to the Tier 2 Watch List despite the fact that Uzbekistan's Government openly and unapologetically forces its population into forced labor every year during the cotton harvest.

In recent years, the government has shifted away from pulling young children out of school and allowed the International Labor Organization to monitor conditions. But instead of children they conscripted adults, continuing the systematic exploitation of its population.

China's premature upgrade to Tier 2 Watch List in 2014 and continued presence there in the 2015 report also raises the question—How can a country that systematically traffics its own people be anything other than Tier 3?

After one year on Tier 3 in 2013, China passed a law to allegedly close its 320 Re-education Through Labor (or RTL) detention

centers, which forced prisoners and other detainees to perform manual labor and padded the pockets of the government.

The State Department upgraded China because of the “reform” in 2014. But now we know from the report itself that the government only closed “several” of the 320 forced labor sites, and converted other RTL facilities into state-sponsored drug detention or ‘custody and education’ centers.

In other words, China continues to force detained citizens to perform manual labor—and yet it got to keep the Tier upgrade it was given for allegedly ending this practice.

Additionally, China's official birth limitation policy, in combination with a cultural preference for boys, has resulted in approximately 40 million women and girls missing from the population—making China a regional magnet for sex and bride trafficking as men who reach marrying age cannot find a mate.

Just ask the Burmese, Cambodian, Vietnamese, Laotian, and North Korean women imported to meet China's demand.

To wit, an estimated 90 percent of North Korean women seeking asylum in China have been trafficked. Yet China refuses these women refugee status and sends them back to possible execution in North Korea.

Nothing in China's record in 2014 warrants any ranking other than Tier 3.

Consider this: China convicted 35 traffickers last year in a country of 1.3 billion people. That is one trafficker out of every 37 million people.

I wrote the TVPA to allow flexibility and discernment in rewarding a country for making progress over their record from the year before. And for significant—not just any—efforts that go to prosecutions, protection, and prevention.

Tier rankings are a tool to aid real change, not a rubber stamp for simply holding a meeting and being a major trading partner.

The rankings in this 2015 report seem to be a real opportunity lost, not just for the countries we gave a pass to but other countries whose good faith efforts at reform were not acknowledged.

No country will take U.S. trafficking rankings seriously when there seems to be a ‘wink and nod’ agreement to look the other way when it suits U.S. business or other interests.

Tellingly, Reuters reports that there was a lot of infighting at the State Department between the trafficking experts, and the bureaus. This year the two sides split on 17 countries in particular—and that J/TIP lost almost all of the conflicts.

Real people are suffering. Real lives are at stake.

HONORING THE LIFE AND
ACHIEVEMENTS OF BROTHER
HERBERT HAROLD SIMPSON

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Brother Herbert Harold “Briefcase” Simpson, exemplary Christian Brother and prominent professional baseball player in the Negro League. Brother Simpson passed away on January 7, 2015, at the age of 94.

Brother Simpson was born August 29, 1920 in Algiers, Louisiana. In his early years, Brother Simpson attended New Orleans public city schools where he played semi-pro baseball with the Algiers Giants while still in high school. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the military and served in the United States Army.

During World War II, Brother Simpson served in General Patton's Third Army Red Ball Express. He was also the only African-American player on a baseball team that played in the Battle League.

After his honorary discharge, Brother Simpson played professional baseball in the Negro League for the next decade. Earning the nickname, “Briefcase,” he was selected to play in Hawaii as a member of the all-star team called the All Star Cincinnati Crescents. Brother Simpson displayed great courage and perseverance when he integrated two minor league teams, the Seattle Steelheads and the Albuquerque Dukes.

Brother Simpson returned to his hometown where he played semi-pro baseball with the New Orleans Creoles while working for the New Orleans Parish School Board for 20 years and the State of Louisiana for ten years. Brother Simpson later became Deacon of the First Free Mission Baptist Church of Algiers. Brother Simpson's dedication to community extended beyond his Deacon duties. He was a member of Pride of Algiers Lodge #102 Free and Accepted Mason, Prince Hall Affiliation where recently Brother Simpson was honored as the society's oldest member.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Brother Herbert Harold Simpson, a soft-spoken man remembered for his faith and humility, and for his dedication to life-long civic and community service. His service and professional athletic achievements contribute significantly to our city's rich history.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 100TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREATER
WILKES-BARRE ASSOCIATION OF
REALTORS

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to help commemorate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Association of Realtors. The association and its members have played a crucial role in helping my constituents realize the American dream of home ownership.

Since 1915, the association has been able to support the interests of local realtors in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The organization has enjoyed a distinguished history of real estate brokerages that have grown from sole proprietorships to multiple offices over the course of the past century—a notable feat. The senses of entrepreneurship and dreams shared by all of its realtors have perpetuated a long list of members and have survived to the present day. They truly embody the spirit of American entrepreneurialism, and I am thankful for the services that they provide my constituents on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the Greater Wilkes-Barre Association of Realtors as it celebrates its 100th anniversary, and

I look forward to the group's continued success for years to come.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLLINSVILLE MEMORIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Collinsville Memorial Public Library on their 100th anniversary of service to our community.

On October 15th, 1915, Mrs. John Bruso, the president of the Collinsville Study Club, now the Women's Club, tasked Mrs. Charles Holding, Mrs. Charles Listeman, and Mrs. AC Powel with establishing a Library for the city of Collinsville. Less than a year later, the library opened on the second floor of city hall. One hundred and twenty-one volumes were donated for public use.

Since opening, the library has seen many moves and structural modifications, as well as the addition of the Collinsville Historical Museum. I am proud to say the library also serves as a memorial. On November 30th, 1938, a tablet was dedicated to fifteen Americans who heroically gave their lives in World War I, and exactly ten years later another tablet was dedicated to fifty soldiers who defended our freedom in World War II.

I am proud of the history the Collinsville Memorial Public Library has in our community, and I'm excited to see what it will bring to our future generations.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE UKRAINIAN FAMINE-GENOCIDE OF 1932-1933

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as we near the anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to the victims, survivors and families of this tragedy.

During this time, nearly 10 million Ukrainians were killed under the direction of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin who ordered the borders of Ukraine sealed to prevent anyone from escaping the man-made starvation and prevent any international food aid from entering.

Grain harvests were deliberately confiscated so millions of innocent men, women and children starved all to destroy the nationally conscious movement for independence.

In 1985, the United States Commission on the Ukraine Famine formed to expand the world's knowledge and understanding of the events of this genocide of 1932-1933. They found that the victims were "starved to death in a man-made famine" and that "Joseph Stalin and those around him committed genocide against Ukrainians in 1932-1933".

And so, today I stand here in solidarity with the Ukrainian people, to remember the suffering experienced under Stalin. I am a proud representative of Pennsylvania's 13th District

where I have many Ukrainian constituents whom I would like to specifically acknowledge.

I commend the Congress when in 2006 legislation was enacted to authorize the construction of a memorial in the District of Columbia to honor the victims of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide. Today, we can see the culmination of this effort with a meaningful memorial by Union Station that I visited earlier today.

Unfortunately, today many people have never heard of Holodomor, despite the 10 million that perished. I call for more efforts to be made like that of the Commission to educate the public on this issue, so everyone understands the events of this genocide. We must learn our history so we do not repeat the mistakes of our past. We must ensure this never happens again—especially at a time where Russia continues to show aggression in Ukraine.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR HISPANICS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 25th Anniversary of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. This initiative has focused on improving and expanding the educational outcomes of Latino students throughout our country.

Across our country approximately one in four students in our public schools is Latino. Ensuring every child has the opportunity to succeed is our moral obligation and imperative to the success of our country. I commend the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics and all the outstanding organizations selected as Bright Spots for their unwavering commitment to the academic success Latino children throughout our country.

I wish to especially congratulate Yuma Union High School District's Ready Now Yuma initiative in my congressional district for being selected as a Bright Spot. Ready Now Yuma's commitment to our youth is imperative in ensuring that every child is prepared for success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate that I inadvertently voted "Yea" on Roll Call 606. I intended to vote "Nay."

RECOGNIZING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GUILLAIN-BARRÉ SYNDROME/CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY DEMYELINATING POLYNEUROPATHY FOUNDATION

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Guillain-Barré/Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy Foundation International's thirty-fifth anniversary. For more than three decades, the GBS/CIDP Foundation has done more than advocate for effective treatment; it has provided hope and resources to those who suffer from these disorders. The Foundation's staff and volunteers help those with GBS and CIDP recognize that they are not alone—and that they have powerful allies in their corner.

Last night, I had the privilege of serving as master of ceremonies for the Foundation's anniversary gala, at which my friend and colleague, Representative JOHN GARAMENDI of California was honored as "Legislator of the Year." JOHN's two daughters, Christina and Elizabeth, experienced GBS, and he is not only a great leader on this issue but also a steadfast advocate for access to quality, affordable health care for all who need it.

Many of those who suffer from GBS and CIDP find themselves experiencing a physical disability, which can have a profound effect on their quality of life and, potentially, their ability to work. One of the proudest moments of my career in public service was leading the effort in the House to pass the bipartisan Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990, ensuring that every American with a differing ability can have his or her equal rights, equal access, and equal dignity recognized and respected.

This year we're celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of that landmark legislation, which did more than change the way we construct buildings or crosswalks—it changed attitudes. Changing attitudes about what GBS and CIDP means for those experiencing it and why we must work together to find new treatments and a cure has been the great work of this Foundation.

I am proud to have been a part of last night's event, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the GBS/CIDP Foundation International on this milestone anniversary. I want to thank organizers Ralph Neas and Katherine Beh Neas, both for their friendship over the years and for their untiring efforts to raise awareness, provide resources, and support research to benefit those suffering from GBS/CIDP. I look forward to continuing my support for their important and impactful work.

RECOGNIZING STRATEGIC STAFFING SOLUTIONS AND PRESIDENT AND CEO CINDY PASKY ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Strategic Staffing Solutions and

President and CEO Cindy Pasky on their 25th Anniversary. Their longevity as a company is a testament to their innovative services, the drive of their leaders, and the hard work of their employees. The mission of Strategic Staffing Solutions (S3) is to build trusting relationships and deliver solutions that positively impact their customers, consultants, and community. This has been a mission that President and CEO Cindy Pasky and her team have proudly embodied for the past 25 years in Metro Detroit. They deserve to be commended for this milestone anniversary and for their contribution to the renaissance of Detroit.

Founded in 1990, Cindy Pasky set out to create a company that would set the standard for service and community engagement and has succeeded in an extraordinary way. In the first year, S3 posted revenues over two million dollars and was employing over forty consultants and team experts; incredible growth for a start-up company. Today, S3 is one of the largest and fastest growing staffing firms in the country, employing over twenty seven hundred team members with offices across the United States and Europe. We are proud to have such a strong global company headquartered in Metro Detroit.

The company has been a great success, but the impact that President and CEO Cindy Pasky has had on our region is almost immeasurable. Cindy is involved in a wide variety of regional collaborative and charitable organizations all with the goal of creating a more beautiful and prosperous Detroit region. In acknowledgement of her work, Cindy has been inducted to the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, named Michigania of the year by the Detroit News and named a Woman of Achievement by Michigan WIPP. In addition, she is Founding Chair of the American-Lithuanian Business Council and serves on the Investor Advisory Committee of the Government of Lithuania. In sum, Cindy Pasky is considered among the most influential and accomplished people in our region and state, and I am fortunate that I can call her a friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Cindy Pasky and Strategic Staffing Solutions for 25 years of success, service and commitment.

RECOGNIZING FOREST PRODUCTS

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, we recently celebrated National Forest Products Week. Today, I rise to recognize the importance of the forest products industry to the United States, and in particular, my home state of North Carolina where the industry sustains over 40,000 jobs.

Many of those stable and good-paying jobs are in rural communities including Roanoke Rapids, Plymouth, and New Bern, in North Carolina's First Congressional District which I represent. The economic and employment opportunities provided by the forest products industry are especially important to those communities and others I represent.

The forest products industry is evolving. It is the largest producer and user of bioenergy. And further investments in and expansion of

bioenergy—at these mills and bioenergy facilities like Craven County Wood Energy—are being made today. These efforts help reduce our country's greenhouse gas emissions and create innovative new markets to help conserve forestland for rural jobs, recreational activities, and wildlife protection.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing National Forest Products Week. The industry creates and sustains jobs, makes important economic contributions to our communities, and is innovating and developing new technologies supporting a healthier environment.

HIRE MORE HEROES ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 22) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act:

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chair, a driver's license is not only a rite of passage for many youth but also a gateway to employment opportunities and to jobs that are increasingly located far from public transportation.

In my district, the majority of job openings in the Milwaukee area are beyond the bus lines.

Yet, vast disparities exist in access to this critical document needed for the world of work, especially among minority youth who live in the poorest neighborhoods.

According to a recent report, only 4% of over 6,500 sixteen-year-olds in some of Milwaukee's poorest zip codes have driver's licenses in good standing. In contrast, in wealthier zip codes, over 30% of sixteen-year-olds have driver's licenses in good standing.

Less than 25 percent of the 19,000 black males age 16 to 24 in Milwaukee County had a driver's license in good standing in 2015, compared to nearly half of the 32,000 white males in that age group.

29% of African American females ages 16 to 24 in Milwaukee County have a driver's license in good standing, compared to 57% of the white females in that age cohort.

Only 12% of 17-year-old African American males in Milwaukee County have driver's licenses in good standing.

One reason for this disparity is that in the poorest neighborhoods, there are few families that are able to afford the costs of classroom and behind-the-wheel driving instruction now required for licensing of school-age youth.

My state, Wisconsin, ended state support for driver education in March 2004 after the federal government stopped supporting driver's-ed in schools.

According to NHTSA, in the 1970s in all States and the District of Columbia, about 95 percent of eligible students received driver education coursework, usually in their high

schools. Now, there are minimal or no funds available for effective program management in States and jurisdictions and many programs, in whole or in part, have been removed from the schools altogether, or are only offered after school, on weekends, or during summer vacation.

A number of other states have eliminated funding for driver's education in schools even as they are moving to Graduated Driver's licensing requirements that impose additional costs on young people seeking to drive legally.

Graduated Driving License systems often include a learner's permit period, followed by a provision license with nighttime restrictions during late night hours, limitations on the passengers teens may carry, and prohibition of use of any electronic communication device while driving, followed by a period of time when teens may drive unsupervised without crashes or citations. They often include mandated classroom instruction as well as behind the wheel time.

Congress is incentivizing states to adopt GDL systems.

As publicly funded driver's education declines, the only other way to get driver's training is through paying private providers. However, this becomes a barrier for low-income and low-resource teens who still need to comply with increasing GDL requirements.

My amendment would allow the use of teen driving safety funds to support school based driver's education, especially to meet a state's GDL requirements. States that choose to take advantage of this option will help driving safety among this high risk populace, reduce racial and economic disparities that exist between those who hold and do not hold a valid driver's license, and help address lack of employment opportunities for youth (limited by lack of transportation).

Improving access to quality driver's education classes can be an effective way to reduce the crash risk for young drivers by focusing efforts on areas of teen driving that show the most promise for improving safety.

Allowing for the use of federal funds to support school-based driver's education will ensure that more young drivers can meet the new requirements and be safer drivers. It would also help reduce unlicensed driving.

A 2012 report by NHTSA (A Fresh Look at Driver Education in America) found that driver education appears to do a good job in preparing students to pass State licensing examinations and that expanding driver education training beyond the current classroom and behind-the-wheel training by integrating it with graduated driver licensing may have increased traffic safety benefits for young drivers, among other findings.

I also want to talk about another reason for the wide gap in access to driver's licenses for low-income youth; the growing practice by state and local government of suspending licenses for nonpayment of fines that have nothing to do with unsafe driving. My amendment initially addressed this issue but I dropped those provisions. I have introduced a bill, Young Adults Driving Safety Act of 2015 (H.R. 3792) to address this second issue.

Court-ordered suspension of driving privileges for low-income residents of all ages is increasingly being used to collect municipal fines, forfeitures and fees (including violations unrelated to driving).

According to the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, "what was originally intended as a sanction to address poor driving behavior is now used as a mechanism to gain compliance with non-highway safety, or social non-conformance, reasons."

Suspending driver's license mainly to collect outstanding municipal debt rather than for public safety reason disproportionately impacts the poorest neighborhoods.

In my district, a review of four years of failure to pay fines suspensions (from 2008 through 2011) in Milwaukee County for those ages 16 through 19 found 8,700 teens received driver's license suspensions for failure to pay court fines and forfeitures.

Most of them (85% of the total) did not have driver's licenses so a suspension added a two year wait to them becoming eligible for their license unless they pay their outstanding municipal tickets and court fees.

We need to address that issue as well as we work to ensure that more young adults, of every race, gender, and income bracket, have a fair chance to get the skills they need to safely operate a motor vehicle.

IN MEMORIAM OF JACK ALBERT BROWN, MAY 2, 1929–OCTOBER 28, 2015

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember one of Arizona's greatest law-makers and statesmen, Jack Albert Brown (Jack). Jack was one of the Arizona Legislature's longest serving Members and one of our last cowboy legislators. He served for 17 terms and represented 5 rural counties; he was elected Assistant House Minority Leader and House Minority Leader Pro Tem. Jack was Senate Floor Leader during a time in Arizona history when both parties held an equal number of seats in the Senate. Jack would later describe this period as his favorite, because both sides of the aisle worked together like no other time in Arizona's history.

Jack was a passionate voice for our farmers and ranchers throughout his career. He routinely visited every town in his vast district and was a welcomed and familiar sight in his pickup truck, often bringing his homegrown tomatoes, citrus and pecans to the many friends he had made throughout the years.

I had the honor of serving with Jack from 2005 until his retirement in 2010. He taught me patience, how to collaborate, how to build bridges with our colleagues, and how to work in the best interest of our great state. Above all else, Jack was my friend, and like everyone who knew this wise and gentle man, I will miss him very much. On the evening of October 28, 2015, Jack passed away, with Beverly, his wife of 21 years by his side. Members, please join me in extending condolences to Beverly, his 8 children, 36 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren, and thank them for sharing Jack with Arizona. Our state is stronger because of Jack Albert Brown and we will never see his likes again. Thank you, cowboy. You will be dearly missed and fondly remembered.

145TH ANNIVERSARY OF PALM VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible longevity of a place near and dear to me and many others. In a country that commemorates the 25th or 50th anniversary of an event, Palm Valley Lutheran Church has a special distinction. On November 8, 2015, it celebrates its 145th anniversary of ministry to the growing town of Round Rock, Texas.

In the early 1850's a small number of Swedish immigrants began settling in an area known then as "Brushy," located a few miles east of the present day town of Round Rock. Although there was neither a Swedish Lutheran Church nor pastor in all of Texas at that time, these hard-working pioneers met together in a local cabin for prayer, Bible reading, and singing of hymns.

On November 27, 1870, the "Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Brushy Church" was officially founded. In 1872 a wood-frame church was built to replace the original log cabin. The name remained until 1936, when it was changed to Palm Valley Lutheran Church.

Palm Valley Lutheran Church has been a silent witness to a country coming into being, its expansion across a continent, the aftermath of a civil war that pitted brother against brother, the strength of a people tested by the Great Depression and world wars, and the rise of a superpower. It has been the site of countless baptisms, weddings, funerals, and sermons. For 145 glorious years, this church has been a place where faith was nurtured, renewed, and embraced.

Palm Valley Lutheran Church remains committed to proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed to a community that has changed much during the past 145 years. Let us honor the durability of this steadfast source of identity and pillar of stability for all Christians in Central Texas.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,532,338,091,711.48. We've added \$7,905,461,042,798.40 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING JEFF ZONDLO, MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jeff Zondlo—a Purple Heart recipient who volunteered to serve his country during the Vietnam War.

Mr. Zondlo, of Marshfield, Wisconsin, voluntarily entered the draft for one noble reason: to give back to his then struggling country.

While stationed at Chu Lai, Vietnam the enemy attacked his camp in the early morning hours of June 11, 1969.

Several grenade explosions knocked Mr. Zondlo unconscious, left him with devastating burns, ruptured ear drums and a gaping hole in his lower back.

In the process of receiving treatment for his wounds, a doctor asked him if he would read letters from home to a soldier whose injuries prevented him from reading them on his own. Despite his own pain, Mr. Zondlo relayed the words of love and encouragement to the soldier. Unfortunately, the soldier would not live to see his loved ones again, but his brother in arms, Mr. Jeff Zondlo, offered patient watch over him in his final days.

It's for that selflessness—both in the call to serve his country and the drive to help others—that we pay tribute to Mr. Zondlo today.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Jeff Zondlo for his unending devotion to our nation. On behalf of this body and a very grateful nation, thank you.

HIRE MORE HEROES ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 22) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act:

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the Lipinski-Nadler-Dold Amendment to restore the ability of state and local agencies to use various transportation programs for transit projects.

Under current law, highway and transit projects can receive up to 80% in federal funding. When it comes to transit Capital Investment Grants (also known as New Starts and Small Starts), it has become common practice for transit agencies to receive less than 80% from that account. Agencies often receive closer to 50%, in part because New Starts is funded through general revenue in the appropriations bill, funding is stretched thin, and agencies "overmatch" to submit more competitive applications.

Transit agencies are currently able to use CMAQ, STP, and TIFIA, to help fill the gap between whatever they receive in transit New

Start funding and the 80% federal funding allowed under the law.

H.R. 3763 does two things that harm New Starts projects. It codifies a reduction in the transit New Start federal share to 50%, and it prohibits the use of other federal transportation dollars to fill the gap.

Nothing in the bill reduces the amount these states and localities will receive, so this provision does not reduce the cost of the bill, or shift funding from one state to another. It simply ties the hands of local agencies and makes it harder, and potentially more expensive, to complete transit projects.

The amendment we are offering today will restore the ability of local agencies to use CMAQ and TIFIA funding for New Starts. The amendment will also restore an 80% federal share for Small Starts and Core Capacity projects, which can continue to use CMAQ, STP and TIFIA funding toward project costs.

This amendment is a compromise that is the result of Chairman SHUSTER's commitment to work with us after we raised it during markup in committee. Under this compromise, New Starts remain at 50%, and will not be able to use STP funds. We still object to these restrictions, but the use of CMAQ and TIFIA to fill the gap is restored. We will continue to fight in conference to restore STP funding for New Starts, and to ensure that highway and transit projects are treated equally.

I thank the Chairman for working with us on this compromise, and for agreeing to correct at least part of the problem. I urge all of my colleagues to support the amendment, and to join with us in continuing to address this issue in the final product enacted into law.

CONGRATULATING MIKE BIEDIGER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate Mike Biediger on his retirement as CEO of Lexington Medical Center after over 25 years of dedicated service.

During his tenure as CEO of Lexington Medical Center, he has led the hospital through an unprecedented period of growth. Lexington Medical Center has grown from 292 beds into a 414-bed modern medical complex with six community-based medical and urgent care centers and more than 600 physicians and 60 medical practices conveniently located throughout Lexington County. Under his leadership, the hospital also established an innovative, nationally certified heart program. On May 8, 2015, Clemson University awarded Mike Biediger an honorary doctorate for his achievements in improving the quality of health of the citizens of South Carolina. I am grateful for his admirable service to the community and his commitment to quality healthcare.

RECOGNIZING STANISLAUS FARM SUPPLY

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Stanislaus Farm Supply, who will be inducted as a member of the Stanislaus County Ag Hall of Fame "Legends in Agriculture" during a ceremony in Modesto, California, on November 12, 2015.

Stanislaus Farm Supply, a farmer-owned company, dedicated to being the best farm supply organization in the industry, provides services to farms in California and Nevada. They have three retail locations in California: Modesto, Merced, Susanville, and one in Yerington, Nevada. They offer products of the utmost quality in spreading, spraying, planting, equipment repair, crop consulting and scouting.

It all began in 1949 when the steel work strikes contributed to a shrinking supply of bailing wire. Area farmers were forced to pool their resources to secure wire. By the generosity of many including Fred Thiemann who donated office space or Joe Souza who worked for free for the first 6 months, the Stanislaus Farm Supply was born. The County Farm bureau supplied the bulk of the early financing and within five years of business, Stanislaus Farm Supply accomplished an impressive goal of \$500,000 in annual sales. They outgrew their current location on 8th and Washington and acquired a new warehouse on E. Service all located in Modesto. This new facility allowed room for the company to expand and grow in the future.

Sam Bettencourt became General Manager of the growing company in 1978. In Sam's 37 years he built a legacy around the company. He was active in supporting local youth through junior livestock events and scholarships for students pursuing agricultural related degrees. Sam reinvented the company to be a voice for its member owners which had been decreasing over time before he started with the company. Many of the employees still with Stanislaus Farm Supply were hired by Sam Bettencourt. He was an asset to the company and helped form it into the successful business today. In 2015, Nick Biscay took over as General Manager of Farm Supply.

Stanislaus Farm Supply has not only survived but thrived since its official opening in 1949. They contribute this to their ability to adapt with change as there have been many technological advances, climate and environmental changes and more since their opening.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in praising and commending Stanislaus Farm Supply, for their significant contributions to agriculture and to the farmers, students, and people of our local community.

HONORING WORLD STROKE DAY

HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

Whereas, stroke kills almost 130,000 Americans every year and it is responsible for one out of every twenty deaths, some of which could have been prevented; and

Whereas, the CDC estimates that the cost of stroke to the United States is approximately, \$34 billion each year; and

Whereas, stroke reduces mobility in the majority of survivors and it is a leading cause of disability; and

Whereas, stroke awareness is extremely important and early detection and treatment of stroke can vastly improve outcomes;

Therefore, I, RICHARD B. NUGENT, Member of Congress representing the Eleventh Congressional District of Florida, am proud to honor the victims of stroke and their families by recognizing October 29th as World Stroke Day.

HIRE MORE HEROES ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 22) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of the amendment.

Today, the United States is awash in domestically produced natural gas.

The Energy Information Agency (EIA) estimates that the U.S. has more than 354 trillion cubic feet of proven natural gas reserves.

In Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia and most importantly, Texas, we increased production by more than 4.2 billion cubic feet per day.

While I am a big supporter of LNG exports, I also firmly believe we should consume as much natural gas here at home as possible.

Natural gas has transformed our power sector.

Today, for the first time in history, we use more natural gas for power production than coal.

Natural gas is expected to fulfill almost 40% of our power needs in the coming decades.

Our producers have become so efficient, Henry Hub prices sit at approximately \$2.89 per BCF.

We should drive demand for natural gas by encouraging natural gas vehicles.

Our corporate and government fleets as well as our public transportation vehicles all run on natural gas but the largest segment of the market resides in personal vehicles.

If we increase demand, we will resolve any environmental issues related to natural gas production.

First, producers will reduce natural gas flaring because that product will have a market.

Second, natural gas burns cleaner than gasoline which reduces carbon emissions.

The EPA is tasked with protecting the environment and natural gas vehicles deserve the same opportunities as electric vehicles.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, from Monday, November 2, 2015 through Tuesday, November 3, 2015, I was attending to representational duties in my congressional district. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

1. On Roll Call 582 I would have voted AYE (H.R. 1853—To direct the President to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan in the International Criminal Police Organization, and for other purposes)

2. On Roll Call 583 I would have voted NO (H. Res. 507—Providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to H.R. 22, the Hire More Heroes Act of 2015; providing for proceedings during the period from November 6, 2015, through November 13, 2015; and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules)

3. On Roll Call 584 I would have voted NO (H. Res. 507, as Amended—Providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to H.R. 22, the Hire More Heroes Act of 2015; providing for proceedings during the period from November 6, 2015, through November 13, 2015; and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules)

4. On Roll Call 585 I would have voted AYE (H. Res. 354—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the safety and security of Jewish communities in Europe.)

5. On Roll Call 586 I would have voted AYE (H.R. 22—Swalwell of California Part B Amendment No. 2 to Rules Print 114–32)

6. On Roll Call 587 I would have voted NO (H.R. 22—Gosar of Arizona Part B Amendment No. 5 to Rules Print 114–32)

7. On Roll Call 588 I would have voted NO (H.R. 22—Ribble of Wisconsin Part B Amendment No. 14 to Rules Print 114–32)

8. On Roll Call 589 I would have voted AYE (H.R. 22—Brown of Florida Part B Amendment No. 15 to Rules Print 114–32)

9. On Roll Call 590 I would have voted AYE (H.R. 22—Lynch of Massachusetts Part B Amendment No. 29 to Rules Print 114–32)

10. On Roll Call 591 I would have voted AYE (H.R. 22—Takano of California Part B Amendment No. 31 to Rules Print 114–32)

11. On Roll Call 592 I would have voted AYE (H.R. 22—Brownley of California Part B Amendment No. 32 to Rules Print 114–32)

12. On Roll Call 593 I would have voted NO (H.R. 22—Radewagen of American Samoa Part B Amendment No. 34 to Rules Print 114–32)

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF AUTISM NEW JERSEY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Autism New Jersey as it cele-

brates its 50th anniversary this year. This milestone and the incredible work of Autism New Jersey is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Organized in 1965 out of a need for a support system representing the common interests of concerned parents, Autism New Jersey has continued to evolve over the years to meet the changing scope and needs of the autism community. With an occurrence rate of 1 in 45 in the state of New Jersey, the efforts of Autism of New Jersey are vital to many of the state's families and individuals. Its information services and education and training programs are invaluable resources to individuals, families, professionals and government officials and help raise awareness, understanding, support and compassion of the autism community. Through its public policy activity, Autism New Jersey continues to be a leading voice on autism-related matters across the state and an effective advocate on behalf of the community.

I would also like to join with Autism New Jersey in congratulating its 50th Gala honorees, Speaker Emeritus Joseph J. Roberts, Jr., Sandra L. Harris, PhD., Herbert D. Hinkle, Esq., and Nancy Richardson. The actions of each of these honorees have made positive impacts on individuals and caregivers and help advance the mission of Autism New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Autism New Jersey on its 50th anniversary and recognizing the outstanding efforts of the organization and its gala honorees on behalf of the autism community.

HONORING ROBERT "BOB" LOWE, DECORATED WORLD WAR II VETERAN AND PHILANTHROPIST, IN ADVANCE OF VETERANS DAY 2015

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Robert "Bob" Lowe, a United States Marine and active philanthropist of Lafayette, Louisiana. A friend to everyone he met, Lowe was not just known for his military service and business savvy, but he was also recognized and cherished for his passion to give back to his community. He passed away at his home on August 6, 2015 at the age of 93.

Bob was a hard-worker from a young age. Born in Hutton, LA in 1922, he spent time working in the fields of his family's farm and developing his strong work ethic. After finishing high school, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and served his country proudly in the First Defense Battalion stationed at Pearl Harbor. He was among the last remaining survivors of the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. Lowe was honorably discharged in 1945.

Following his distinguished military career, Bob moved to Lafayette, LA in 1952. He became highly-regarded in the business community as a founder of Central Industries, Gulfgate Marine and the All American Development Company. In addition to his business successes, Lowe was constantly thinking of ways to serve others. In 1965, his wife of forty years, Jewell, founded 232-HELP, an information, education, and referral service geared to-

ward assisting and providing resources to those in need. Lowe dedicated time as a founding board member, and eventual President of the agency. He also founded LARC, an organization dedicated to supporting members of the community with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In 2011, Lowe was awarded the Lafayette Civic Cup for his extraordinary record of community involvement.

Bob was extremely devoted to and active in the veteran community in Louisiana. He served as Commander and Senior Vice Commander at the historic American Legion Post 69, an Executive Board member of the Veterans Action Coalition of South Louisiana and a life member of the Marine Corps League, Acadiana Detachment # 488. A special memory many veterans hold of Lowe is that each December, he enthusiastically hosted a Christmas reunion of Pearl Harbor survivors at the Petroleum Club of Lafayette. Before his passing, Lowe made arrangements to ensure this annual gathering would continue for years to come.

To say Lowe will be missed does not even begin to express the lasting, positive impact he had on so many lives. He was a pillar of our community, and the good works to which he so thoroughly dedicated his life will be remembered for generations to come.

Lowe is survived by his sons, Casey Lowe and Cody Lowe, his stepson, James Parkerson Roy, Sr., and his wife Ginger Roy, grandchildren Bonnie Lowe Martens, Olivia Lowe, and Valerie Lowe, and step-grandchildren John Parkerson Roy, James Parkerson Roy, Jr., Christopher Malin Roy and Elizabeth Caswell, as well as several great-grandchildren.

Lowe was preceded in death by his wife, Jewell Parkerson Lowe, a daughter, Kathleen Paulette Lowe, and his parents, Robert Lee Lowe and Emma Bergeron Lowe.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 617 on H.R. 22, I mistakenly recorded my vote as "no" when I intended to vote "aye."

HIRE MORE HEROES ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 22) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act:

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Chair, I would like to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for accepting two of my amendments in the en bloc amendment to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 22, including an amendment exempting a narrow class of welders from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.

The amendment at hand is a bipartisan, compromise effort that clarifies that transit agencies starting New Starts projects can utilize Federal funds, like CMAQ and TIFIA, to match the 50% funding provided by their New Start grant. I appreciate the Chairman's willingness to work with me on this issue and restore the Core Capacity and Small Starts projects Federal match limit back to 80% and allowing local agencies to flex other Federal funds to these projects.

Without these funds, local flexibility would be greatly diminished and agencies would be forced to scrounge for funds locally, delaying many, many projects, including Chicago's Red & Purple Line Modernization. Still, this is a compromise amendment and this bill still restricts the use of STP funds for the remainder of the match and codifies the New Starts grant amount at 50%, both at the request of the majority, and I strongly disagree with this and hope we can work on this in conference. In support of my amendment, I submit letters of support for this amendment from the Chicago Transit Authority, the Regional Transportation Authority, and the American Public Transportation Association.

CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY,
Chicago, Illinois, November 3, 2015.

Hon. DANIEL LIPINSKI,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN LIPINSKI: I am writing to you in support of the Lipinski-Nadler-Dold Amendment (#110) to Section 3005 of H.R. 3763, the Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2015. This amendment would strike provisions in the bill that prohibit certain U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) funding and financing from being paired with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5309 Capital Investment Grants to construct New Starts, Small Starts, and Core Capacity Projects. Specifically, provisions in Section 3005 would limit the use of DOT funding from programs such as Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER), and the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) from being utilized on projects such as the CTA's Red-Purple Modernization project or the Red Line Extension to 130th Street.

For decades many transit agencies nationwide have been pairing various DOT funding with FTA Capital Investment Grant funding. This includes flexible funding from the CMAQ program that is allocated at the regional level by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Here in Chicago the MPO—known as the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)—has a yearly competitive process for CMAQ funding that is based on cost-benefit analysis with regard to a decrease in traffic congestion and an improvement in air quality. In 2015 the CTA's Red-Purple Modernization Core Capacity project was allocated \$125 million in multi-year CMAQ funding, but H.R. 3763's provisions would jeopardize that funding from being paired with future FTA funding. So in essence, the provision as currently written takes away local control over federal funding that was already allocated to the region.

The CTA also has a history of successfully tapping low-cost TIFIA loan financing for

large projects such as the Your New Blue Program on the CTA's Blue Line from downtown to O'Hare and the 95th Street Red Line Terminal Improvement project. To prohibit CTA from considering TIFIA financing for the aforementioned Red-Purple Modernization Project and Red Line Extension would take away an important and cost-effective tool in the financing toolbox and would lead to higher financing costs for these projects through traditional methods.

Thank you for offering this very important amendment during Committee markup and for floor consideration. The CTA was heartened to hear Chairman SHUSTER offer to work with you and your colleagues during the Committee consideration of the bill, and the CTA and likely many transit agencies around the region and country will benefit from your efforts should your amendment be adopted into the bill.

Sincerely,

DORVAL R. CARTER, Jr.,
President.

AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
ASSOCIATION,

WASHINGTON, DC, November 3, 2015.

Hon. DANIEL LIPINSKI,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN LIPINSKI: On behalf of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) and its more than 1,500 member organizations, we are writing in support of the Lipinski, Nadler, Dold amendment #110 to the transportation provisions of the House Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform (STRR) Act, which would restore the 80 percent federal share for core capacity and small starts projects, as well as allow New Starts projects to continue to use congestion mitigation and air quality improvement program funds (CMAQ), transportation infrastructure finance and innovation act (TIFIA) funds, and Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant funds as a part of the remaining Government share.

While we are disappointed that surface transportation program (STP) funds continue to be restricted for new starts projects only, we recognize that this amendment was compromise language and improves the House bill. However, notwithstanding our support of this compromise position to improve the House bill, we will continue to advocate to preserve the current 80 percent Federal share for New Starts projects and the existing flexibility to use STP for the government share as the final position in a future conference between the House and the Senate.

Thank you again for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to continuing to work with you on restoring the federal share to 80 percent federal share for new starts and restoring STP flexibility to the new starts program as the House bill moves to conference. If you have any questions, please have your staff contact Brian Tynan of APTA's Government Affairs Department.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL P. MELANIPHY,
President & CEO.

NOVEMBER 4, 2015.

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) system provides more than two million rides per weekday. As the agency responsible for fiscal oversight, as well as financial and regional planning for public transit in Northeastern Illinois, I am writing in strong support of amendment #110 to Section 3005 of H.R. 3763, the Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2015. This amendment would restore the 80 percent federal share for core capacity and small starts projects, as well as allow New

Starts projects to continue to use congestion mitigation and air quality improvement program funds (CMAQ), transportation infrastructure finance and innovation act (TIFIA) funds, and Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant funds as a part of the remaining Government share.

Amendment #110 benefits all three of our region's agencies—CTA, Metra and Pace—by allowing them to pair Capital Investment Grant funds with others federal program funds; a practice that has historically been allowed under federal programs. An example of the importance of this flexibility was seen when the CTA recently used a low-cost TIFIA loan as part of the project matching funds to finance the Your New Blue Program on the Blue Line from downtown to O'Hare and the 95th Street Red Line Terminal Improvement project. To prohibit the CTA from having the flexibility to use TIFIA financing, CMAQ dollars or TIGER funding as part of the local match for these projects would take away important and cost-effective financing and funding tools which could lead to higher costs if only left with other traditional methods.

In an era of scarce funding, the RTA and Service Boards try to creatively pursue all options from state, federal, and local sources for major projects. We appreciate Congress allowing local entities maximum flexibility to continue to do that. If you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

LEANNE REDDEN,
Executive Director, Regional Transportation
Authority.

HONORING WILLIAM D. "BILL"
SHINN

HON. MARK DESAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my good friend William D. "Bill" Shinn, who was born on October 6, 1941 in Minnesota, and recently passed away at his home in Concord, California, on October 16, 2015.

In 1957, Bill became a resident of Concord, and attended Mt. Diablo High School. Later, he earned degrees from Diablo Valley College, Sacramento State University, and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Golden Gate University. Bill was a proud veteran of the United States Navy and a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

Bill was a good man and good friend to many. He honorably served Contra Costa County for over 45-years as Mayor of Concord, a Member of the City Council, and Commander with the Sheriff's Office. During his 29-years with the Sheriff's Office, Bill was a dedicated advocate for criminal justice reform and mental health services. I have fond memories of Bill leading impassioned discussions about the causes he believed in. He was a voice before his time.

In addition to being an important member of the community, Bill was beloved by his family. He was a caring and devoted husband, father, grandfather and brother. For everyone who knew him, Bill will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to celebrate the extraordinary life of Bill Shinn, and I send my

sincere and deepest condolences to Bill's family, friends, and loved ones.

IN HONOR OF MRS. JANE WILLSON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding businesswoman, respected philanthropist, and beloved servant of humankind, Mrs. Jane Seddon Willson. Mrs. Willson passed away on Tuesday, November 3, 2015. A funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 7, 2015 at First United Methodist Church in Albany, Georgia, with interment to follow at Westview Cemetery in Atlanta, Georgia.

Born in New York City in 1923, Mrs. Willson graduated from Wellesley College in Massachusetts in 1945. Six years later, she moved to Albany, Georgia with her husband, the late William Harry Willson, to manage his family's small pecan orchard. After the success of their mail-order pecan business, the move to the farm in Albany was simply the next step.

What started as a small family business quickly expanded into two large companies. As President and Secretary of both Willson Farming and Sunnyland Farms, Mrs. Willson orchestrated the global expansion that continues to make both companies successful. Because of Mrs. Willson's business savvy, people in countries around the world now enjoy a variety of nuts and nut products from Georgia, which has contributed greatly to the state's economy.

Mrs. Willson put as much, if not more, love and effort into serving her community as she did into her businesses. She served as board chairman of the Albany-Dougherty Inner City Authority and the United Way of Southwest Georgia. She also served on the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Board; the Albany Technical College Board; the Albany State University Foundation; and the Darton State College Foundation. She was the first woman to serve on the Board of Directors of BellSouth Telecommunications.

In addition, Mrs. Willson's service as President of the Board of Directors for the Boys & Girls Club of Albany has left a lasting mark upon the organization. She not only served on the Board for many years, but also donated the funds to build the Jane Willson Unit. This year, the Boys & Girls Club of Albany will be presenting its first "Harry and Jane Willson Partner of the Year" award to an organization that best emanates the couple's spirit of philanthropy.

An avid supporter of the arts, Mrs. Willson also helped with the establishment of the Albany Museum of Art, and later, the museum's Jane and Harry Willson Auditorium. Her drive to help her community further resulted in the creation of the Willson Hospice House. Because of her \$1 million donation, the Willson Hospice House is able to provide inpatient care to people who have been diagnosed with a terminal illness. Yet her generosity has not

been confined to Southwest Georgia. Mrs. Willson donated millions of dollars to the University of Georgia, where she served as a UGA Foundation Trustee and as a board member of the UGA Research Foundation. She also made a \$1 million donation in honor of her daughter, Jane, to Valley Children's Hospital in Madera, California.

Mrs. Willson's generosity and altruism served as an inspiration to all who knew her, myself included. She donated more than just funding to every organization to which she was connected—she was a prominent part of the fabric of each institution.

George Washington Carver once said, "No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it." We are all so blessed that Mrs. Jane Willson, an inspirational human being of incredible compassion and integrity, passed our way and during her life's journey did so much for so many for so long. She leaves behind a great legacy in service to her beloved family and to all those whose lives she touched through her kindness and generosity. She will truly be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me, my wife Vivian, and the Albany, Georgia community in honoring Mrs. Jane Seddon Willson for her outstanding contributions to the community. We extend our deepest sympathies to her family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time and we pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

TRIBUTE TO RON GILLHAM

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the distinguished career of Ron Gillham as he retires as Mayor of Huntington Woods, Michigan. Mayor Gillham, who served as Mayor for 35 years in the city that he loves, will end his tenure as one of the longest serving mayors in the State of Michigan.

Ron Gillham was born, raised and educated in Missouri. After graduation from the Missouri School of Mines in 1956, he joined General Motors at the Tech Center in Warren, Michigan, and he and his wife Shirley moved to Huntington Woods in 1959. He served in a variety of interesting and challenging positions, eventually retiring from Advanced Product Engineering in 1992.

In his "second career," Ron Gillham has served the citizens of Huntington Woods continuously since 1975, first as a member of the Huntington Woods Zoning Board of Appeals, then as a Commissioner for the City for Huntington Woods. In 1981, Mr. Gillham was elected as the Mayor of Huntington Woods.

Ron Gillham is active in the Michigan Municipal League where he formally served on the Board of Trustees as Vice President and also won the organization's Michael A. Guido Award. During his tenure, Mr. Gillham also

won the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments Regional Ambassador award, served as chair of the South Oakland County Mayor's Association and the Vice President of the Michigan Association of Mayors.

In more than three decades at the helm, Mr. Gillham worked tirelessly on many projects to improve the lives of Huntington Woods residents. He is most proud of the building of the city's library, the city's A++ bond rating and helping the Huntington Woods Public Safety Department become one of the best in the State of Michigan. In October, the Huntington Woods City Council passed a resolution to name the city's recreation center as the Gillham Recreation Center, another testament to Mr. Gillham's respect in the community.

I have had the pleasure of representing the City of Huntington Woods in Congress for the past thirty-two years and have witnessed Mayor Gillham's leadership on many issues during our tenure together. One recent example was in 2014, when unprecedented flooding damaged tens of thousands of properties throughout Southeast Michigan, including in Huntington Woods. Mayor Gillham and his leadership team at the city was an active and effective advocate for aid from state and federal governments.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mayor Ron Gillham on an exceptional career in public service. I wish him much success with his future endeavors and wish him the best as he spends his retirement with his wife Shirley, their three children, and seven grandchildren.

IN HONOR OF VETERANS DAY

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, as Veterans Day approaches, I rise in honor of our nation's servicemen and women for their tremendous courage and sacrifice in defense of our liberties.

Regrettably, selfless acts of valor and service by Americans in uniform are often taken for granted. They are not always reciprocated, and their vulnerabilities are often preyed upon by the despicable and unscrupulous. In those cases, it is our duty to come to their defense.

We are all too aware of cases when abusive and predatory payday lenders target and entrap veterans, misleading and forcing them into downward spirals of high cost debt. While the Defense Department recently finalized rules to protect active duty military service members from triple-digit interest rates on payday loans, the job is not done.

Veterans are not protected under the law and remain vulnerable. Therefore, I call on my colleagues to join me in supporting stronger consumer protections and to rein in abuses involving high-cost lending to veterans while they struggle to make ends meet.

Mr. Speaker, much more work remains to be done to raise the quality of life of our nation's veterans. Let us resolve this Veterans Day to meet those challenges head-on as we thank and honor them for their courage, sacrifices and service.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOROUGH OF WOODBURY HEIGHTS

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the one-hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Borough of Woodbury Heights in Gloucester County, New Jersey.

On May 25, 1915, the citizens of the future Woodbury Heights were formally recognized by the New Jersey Legislature as an independent borough out of Deptford Township. However, history for this small town did not begin in 1915. Settled in 1771, the area we know today as Woodbury Heights, New Jersey has a deep history of rich involvement in the South Jersey community. Indeed, many of the older homes can still be seen today, including the La Pann House, built in 1771, that is on the National Historic Registry.

In 1892, six businessmen from Philadelphia and Camden: John Mayhew; E.R. Artman; Judge Pancoast; Howard M. Cooper; William Moland; and I.W. Wilson bought land from Deptford Township. There they laid out streets, built homes, and constructed a community hall in 1894, forming the nucleus of the future Woodbury Heights. In the 1900s, the once sparse town started to flourish when a train station was built. Later, Simon M. Snook donated Glen Terrace Lake to the borough and it remains one of the most popular recreation sites in the area. Over the next hundred years, the Woodbury Heights community thrived, and in the past century, the population of Woodbury Heights has quadrupled to reach over 3,000 today.

Mr. Speaker, the character of the Borough Woodbury Heights and its emphasis on community engagement is best exemplified by three of the figures featured on its official seal: a scale of justice, a shield of safety, and two shaking hands. This weekend, as the people of Woodbury Heights celebrate their Centennial, I congratulate the citizens, Mayor Robbie J. Conley, and the Borough Council on the past one hundred years and wish them another hundred years of richness and good fortune.

HONORING EL PASO VETERANS WHO CONTINUE TO SERVE

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, Veterans Day is a time to honor the selfless service that members of our Armed Forces displayed while keeping our nation safe. Today, I am privileged to recognize five of my constituents who continue to serve long after their time in uniform has ended: Mr. Jose Andow, Mr. Roy Aldridge, Mr. Ron Holmes, Mr. David Garcia and Mrs. Melinda Russell. Although each is from a different generation, these veterans embody a continued dedication to their fellow veterans and the El Paso community.

Jose Andow understands the price our service members pay in the name of freedom from

his experience fighting in WWII. As one of five siblings to serve in WWII, Mr. Andow was part of 10 combat missions during the war flying in both Italy and Germany. As a way to continue serving his country even decades after his formal military service ended, Mr. Andow has volunteered regularly at the El Paso VA Health Care System since November of 2010, and has logged over 1,600 hours of volunteer service. At age 94, Mr. Andow still volunteers every Monday and Wednesday at the VA, where he greets local veterans as they come in to receive care. Throughout the country over 140,000 volunteers donate millions of hours volunteering at local VA hospitals and clinics annually. Their service enhances the veteran healthcare experience and supplements VA's ability to provide quality care to our veterans. Due to his significant contribution to the El Paso VA and his fellow veterans, I am proud to recognize Mr. Andow for a lifetime of selfless service to our country.

Roy Aldridge is a combat veteran of the Korean War and a prominent member of the El Paso veteran community. After enlisting in the National Guard in 1949 at the age of 16 and then being wounded in Korea, Mr. Aldridge was discharged from the military for being underage. He completed high school, reenlisted, and returned to Korea in 1953. After being shot down and spending five months as a prisoner of war in North Korea, Mr. Aldridge returned to the U.S. where he completed a distinguished military career. Following retirement, Mr. Aldridge has continued to advocate for his fellow veterans. He has served as a Vice President for the Korean War Veterans Association and is currently the organization's National Director. Additionally Mr. Aldridge is a member of the VA Volunteer Service and the Texas Veterans Commission. Mr. Aldridge also serves on my office's Veterans Citizen Advisory Panel where he regularly advocates for policies to improve veteran's benefits and healthcare services.

Ron Holmes is a Vietnam-era veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. After serving four years, attaining the rank of Sergeant and deploying to Okinawa, Mr. Holmes left the Marines in 1974 to begin a construction business in El Paso. After observing neglect of his fellow veterans at the VA in 1997, Mr. Holmes decided to volunteer his time and advocate for his fellow veterans in El Paso while simultaneously running his business. From a small office at a Northeast El Paso American Legion Post, Mr. Holmes has since assisted over 3,500 El Paso veterans attempting to obtain benefits from the VA and has received favorable decisions in most of these cases.

David Garcia enlisted in the United States Army in 1975, later deploying to Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Storm/Desert Shield. Following 20 years of honorable military service, Mr. Garcia retired as a Chief Warrant Officer. Since leaving active duty, Mr. Garcia has dedicated himself to fulfilling the promise to care for the men and women who have served our great nation. Mr. Garcia subsequently became a member of Disabled American Veterans in 1999 and since has served in multiple leadership roles for the organization, including District 1 commander, Northeast El Paso Chapter 187 Senior Vice-Commander and Combat Related Special Compensation ambassador. Mr. Garcia has assisted numerous El Paso veterans, family members and widows in obtaining earned

benefits from the VA. He continues to advocate for important veteran issues including toxic exposure and quality orthotic and prosthetic services within VA.

Melinda Russell served as a Chaplain in Iraq and was medically retired from the Army in 2010 at the rank of Captain. After leaving the military, Mrs. Russell dedicated herself to improving veteran healthcare by offering alternative therapies and being a persistent, dedicated advocate for her fallen veterans. Retiring in El Paso, Mrs. Russell founded Hope and Healing Horse Therapy Ranch to help those veterans suffering from PTSD and TBI. Additionally, at a time when 22 veterans take their own lives daily, her moving and personal writings serve as a stark reminder that we have a responsibility to care for our service members and veterans both physically and mentally.

Mr. Speaker, as Veterans Day approaches, it is important that we remember the legacy of service of this country's veterans. Our country can learn from and be inspired by the examples set by Mr. Andow, Mr. Aldridge, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Garcia and Mrs. Russell. It is my honor to recognize these veterans who continue to serve in advance of Veterans Day 2015.

EXPRESSING SORROW ON THE DEATH OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN JOHN HOWARD COBLE OF NORTH CAROLINA

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a great American and one of the beloved and respected persons ever to serve in this body, Howard Coble of North Carolina, who died yesterday evening, November 3, 2015, in Greensboro, North Carolina, at the age of 84.

First elected in 1984 to the 99th Congress by the constituents of the 6th Congressional District of North Carolina, Howard Coble would go on to win reelection to the 14 succeeding Congresses.

When he retired at the end of the 113th Congress, Howard Coble held the distinction of being the longest serving Republican from the state of North Carolina to serve in the House.

Congressman Coble, served in the U.S. House longer than any other North Carolina Republican, died late Tuesday. He was a respected member of this body and respected by all who knew him. His presence will be greatly missed and we all mourn his loss and extend our sincerest condolences to his family and friends.

Born March 18, 1931 in Greensboro, North Carolina, John Howard Coble joined the United States Coast Guard one year after graduating high school where he served on active duty for five years and an additional 18 years in the Coast Guard Reserves.

After his honorable discharge, Howard Coble attended Guilford College on the G.I. Bill, from which he graduated in 1958 with an A.B. in History, and then went on to earn his J. D. in 1962 from the law matriculated to the University of North Carolina School of Law.

After graduation, Howard Coble worked briefly as an insurance agent before spending much of the next two decades in the private practice of law and as an Assistant United States Attorney.

Before his election to Congress in 1984, Howard Coble served in the North Carolina House of Representatives in 1969, and again from 1979–83, and as Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Revenue from 1973–1977.

In Congress, Howard Coble served on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and its Subcommittees on Aviation, Highways, and the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, it was my great privilege to serve with Howard Coble for 20 years on the Judiciary Committee; for many years we were colleagues on the Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, Competition, and the Internet.

While we served on different sides of the aisle and were often on opposing sides of major issues, there were many times we were able to work together to craft sound public policy and advance the public good in the areas of patent reform, copyrights and intellectual property, and privacy protection.

Mr. Speaker, a dear colleague has fallen but he will not be forgotten.

I will always remember Howard Coble as a thoughtful, helpful, kind, and honorable colleague; a true southern gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, Howard Coble was a good man, a good legislator, a great friend who was respected by Members on both sides of the aisle.

He will be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK TAKAI

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, November 4, 2015, I was absent from the House due to illness. Due to my absence, I am not recorded on any legislative measures for the day. I would like to reflect how I would have voted had I been present for legislative business.

Had I been present, I would have voted “no” on Roll Call 594, the Hartzler of Missouri Part B Amendment No. 37, as modified to Rules Print 114–32.

I would have voted “no” on Roll Call 595, the Rooney of Florida Part B Amendment No. 39 to Rules Print 114–32.

I would have voted “no” on Roll Call 596, the DeSaulnier of California Part B Amendment No. 41 to Rules Print 114–32.

I would have voted “no” on Roll Call 597, Providing for further consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 22).

I would have voted “no” on Roll Call 598, Providing for further consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 22).

I would have voted “no” on Roll Call 599, the DeSaulnier of California Part A Amendment No. 5 to Rules Print 114–32.

I would have voted “no” on Roll Call 600, Hunter of California Part A Amendment No. 7 to Rules Print 114–32.

I would have voted “yea” on Roll Call 601, the Denham of California Part A Amendment No. 8 to Rules Print 114–32.

I would have voted “no” on Roll Call 602, the King of Iowa Part A Amendment No. 12 to Rules Print 114–32.

I would have voted “no” on Roll Call 603, the Culberson of Texas Part A Amendment No. 14 to Rules Print 114–32.

I would have voted “yea” on Roll Call 604, the Lewis of Georgia Part A Amendment No. 21 to Rules Print 114–32.

I would have voted “no” on Roll Call 605, the Reichert of Washington Part A Amendment No. 26 to Rules Print 114–32.

I would have voted “no” on Roll Call 606, the DeSantis of Florida Part A Amendment No. 29.

I would have voted “no” on Roll Call 607, the Perry of Pennsylvania Part B Amendment No. 1 to Senate Amendment to the Text.

I would have voted “no” on Roll Call 608, the Mulvaney of South Carolina Part B Amendment No. 2 to Senate Amendment to the Text.

I would have voted “no” on Roll Call 609, the Mulvaney of South Carolina Part B Amendment No. 3 to Senate Amendment to the Text.

I would have voted “no” on Roll Call 610, the Mulvaney of South Carolina Part B Amendment No. 4 to Senate Amendment to the Text.

I would have voted “no” on Roll Call 611, the Mulvaney of South Carolina Part B Amendment No. 5 to Senate Amendment to the Text.

I would have voted “no” on Roll Call 612, the Mulvaney of South Carolina Part B Amendment No. 6 to Senate Amendment to the Text.

I would have voted “no” on Roll Call 613, the Rothfus of Pennsylvania Part B Amendment No. 7 to Senate Amendment to the Text.

I would have voted “no” on Roll Call 614, the Royce of California Part B Amendment No. 8 to Senate Amendment to the Text.

I would have voted “no” on Roll Call 615, the Schweikert of Arizona Part B Amendment No. 9 to Senate Amendment to the Text.

I would have voted “no” on Roll Call 616, the Westmoreland of Georgia Part B Amendment No. 23 to Senate Amendment to the Text.

I would have voted “no” on Roll Call 617, the Young of Iowa Part B Amendment No. 10 to Senate Amendment to the Text.

IN HONOR OF THE NEW JERUSALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH OF LOVETTSVILLE, VIRGINIA ON THEIR 250TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 250th anniversary of the New Jerusalem Lutheran Church of Lovettsville, Virginia. This past Sunday, New Jerusalem held a special anniversary worship service, led by Pastor Joel Guttormson and the head of the Washington Metropolitan Synod, Bishop Graham, who delivered the sermon. Following the service, over 200 people gathered for a luncheon at Lovettsville Fire and Rescue station in celebration.

New Jerusalem traces back to 60 German families seeking fertile farmland who journeyed south from Pennsylvania. These early settlers came from the Palatine region of Germany, Alsace, and Lorraine, France and referred to their church as “the new Jerusalem,” where they could gather in fellowship and worship. The current structure has been in use since its consecration in 1869, but the original congregation first gathered for worship in a log structure which served as both a school and a church. New Jerusalem is recognizable by its distinctive bell tower that serves as a landmark in the Washington Metropolitan area. The original buildings sit on property granted by Lord George William Fairfax, while the nearby Lovettsville Union Cemetery acts as the final resting place of many of Lovettsville’s residents from over the last two and a half centuries.

It is the oldest Lutheran church in the Washington, D.C. area and serves as an important landmark for its historic significance and contributions to the community. New Jerusalem has made a significant impact on the community for over two and a half centuries, and we join them in celebration of 250 years of worship. I am honored to recognize this momentous occasion today and wish New Jerusalem Lutheran Church all the best moving forward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT DESJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, due to airplane equipment problems, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call vote 569, passage of H. Res. 450—Providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 597) to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes.

Had I been present, I would have voted “No.”